

Appl. No. 10/561,742
Amdt. dated November 29, 2007
Reply to Office action of September 5, 2007

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus comprising:
a cabinet (1) having external walls (2) and internal walls (3), said internal walls (3) defining an interior region (4) for receiving clothes;
a door (6) connected to said cabinet (1) for accessing said interior region (4);
at least a supporting device (5) for supporting clothes within said interior region (4);
a ventilator (7);
water supply means (8); and
an ultrasonic nebulizer (9) operatively associated to said water supply means (8);
wherein the air within said interior region (4) is recirculated by said ventilator (7) through an air duct (10) located between said internal walls (3) and said external walls (2) forming a closed loop with said ~~internal~~ interior region (4).

2. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said water supply means (8) comprising a removable water reservoir (15) feeding a pocket (16) hydraulically connected thereto.

3. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said pocket (16) is associated with a water level measuring device (18) to monitor the absence of water inside said removable water reservoir (15).

4. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) extends substantially along the whole height of said apparatus.

5. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) includes heating means (30) to increase the temperature of the air.

6. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) includes filtering means (31) to purify the air from odours and/or undesirable particles.

7. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) is located on the opposite side of said cabinet (1) in respect to said door (6).

8. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the recirculating airflow within said interior region (4) is oriented in a substantially vertical direction.

9. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) comprises an air intake port (11) located at the top of said interior region (4) and an air outlet port (12) located at the bottom of said interior region (4).

10. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said air intake port (11) and said air outlet port (12) are covered by a protective grate (13, 14).

11. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said air outlet port (12) contains at least a part of said pocket (16).

12. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said pocket is associated to a conveyor (25) which directs at least a part of the air flowing from said air duct (10) into said pocket (16) and allows said air mixed with the mist produced by the ultrasonic nebulizer (9) to escape from said pocket (16) accessing said interior region (4).

13. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said conveyor (25) comprises a central body (27) shaped as a frustum of a cone and at least a tubular member (26) protruding therefrom.

14. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ventilator (7) is a centrifugal ventilator.

15. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the working conditions of said apparatus are driven by an electronic control system.

16. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said cabinet (1) has a structure adapted to be built-in.

17. (previously presented) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ultrasonic nebulizer (9) introduces nebulized water into said interior region (4).

18. (new) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1,
wherein said external walls (2) and said internal walls (3) are rigid,
wherein said door (6) is hingedly connected to said cabinet (1),
wherein all of the air within said interior region is cyclically recirculated along a closed path by said ventilator through the air duct (10), and
wherein the air duct (10) is defined by a hollow space between said internal walls (3) and said external walls (2).